TRENDS

A3275-2

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
1920 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036
(202) 835-9555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, February 7, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended February 2 totaled an estimated 16.8 billion ton-miles, 7.8 percent below the corresponding week of 1984, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first five weeks of 1985 was an estimated 78.4 billion ton-miles, down 7.2 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended February 2 totaled 363,943, down 8.4 percent from last year, but 11.0 percent over the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 9.7 percent in the East, 7.9 percent in the South, and 7.8 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 17 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Loadings of motor vehicles and equipment were up by 1,623 cars (7.9 percent). Twenty of 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended January 26 totaled 50,048 cars, virtually no change from the corresponding week of 1984, and 80,439 trailers and/or containers, 8.5 percent below last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first four weeks of the year was 184,800 cars, up 1.3 percent from last year, and 298,763 trailers and/or containers, down 7.1 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 2/2/85:

	Loadings in Week ended Feb. 2, 1985		Change from Corresponding Week 1984			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	25,722	D	6,663	20.6	I	1,609	6.7
Other farm products	3,765	D	1,211	24.3	D	510	11.9
Metallic ores	12,791	I	1,059	9.0	I	2,524	24.6
Coal	100,064	D	12,288	10.9	I	14,964	17.6
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	7,878	D	771	8.9	I	717	10.0
Nonmetallic minerals	10,417	D	2,384	18.6	I	1,418	15.8
Grain mill products	11,113	D	887	7.4	I	691	6.6
Food and kindred products	11,145	D	308	2.7	I	401	3.7
Primary forest products	12,042	D	2,725	18.5	I	922	8.3
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,258	D	442	5.7	I	355	5.1
Pulp, paper and allied products	14,893	D	364	2.4	I	1,134	8.2
Chemicals and allied products	24,865	D	1,102	4.2	I	827	3.4
Petroleum products	4,702	D	401	7.9	I	106	2.3
Stone, clay and glass products	8,769	D	1,619	15.6	I	392	4.7
Coke	5,137	I	354	7.4	I	1,275	33.0
Metals and products	8,802	D	1,714	16.3	I	1,657	23.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,113	I	1,623	7.9	I	1,465	7.1
Waste and scrap materials	8,451	D	1,960	18.8	I	1,079	14.6
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	7,242	D	1,679	18.8	I	907	14.3
All other carloads	56,519	I	225	0.4	I	4,102	7.8
LCL traffic	255	D	57	18.3	I	89	53.6
Total Cars Loaded	363,943	D	33,314	8.4	I	36,124	11.0
Corresponding week of 1984	397,257						

	1985	1984	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (5 weeks)	1,690,124	1,837,070	D 8.0
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
4 Weeks ended January 26	61.6	66.3	D 7.1
Week ended February 2	16.8	18.2	D 7.8
5 weeks cumulative	78.4	84.5	D 7.2

AARt-C20785